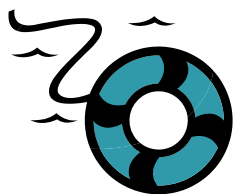


Safe Boating Information

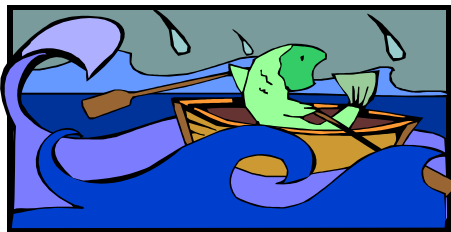


The weather can be friend or foe. Calm winds and seas make for enjoyable power boating, waterskiing, and fishing. A fresh breeze and a

Know the Weather



light chop provide an invigorating sailing or wind surfing experience. But the sudden emergence of dark clouds, shifting and gusty winds, torrential down-pours and lightning can turn a day's pleasure into a nightmare of distress. In this brochure you will find some helpful tips on how to keep your pleasure and safety to a maximum.



NOAA's National Weather Service Climate Services Program

Chicago Weather Forecast Office
333 W. University Drive.
Romeoville, IL 60446

Phone: (815) 834 - 0600
Web: <http://weather.gov>
E-mail: Timothy.J.Halbach@noaa.gov

Weather & Boating



NOAA's National Weather Service

Climate Services Program

Tel: (815) 834 - 0600
<http://weather.gov/Chicago>

Using the Weather Information

Most boaters already have access to extensive amount of weather information, which enables the best judgment to be made on everything from tactics for winning a race to most suitable route for a pleasant day's sail. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio (NWR) provides continuous broadcast of the latest weather information and forecast directly from National Weather Service offices across the country. NWR includes more than 950 transmitters covering 50 states, adjacent coastal waters including The Great Lakes. Broadcasts are found in the VHF public service band at these 7 frequencies (MHz) in the adjacent table. NWR requires a special radio or scanner capable of receiving the signal. For more information visit:

<http://www.weather.gov/nwr/>



You should not hesitate to use forecast and observations intended for aviation interests such as **Terminal Aerodrome Forecast** (TAF). TAF indicates prevailing and temporary weather conditions. Boaters can benefit from TAF prepared for the coastal locations including The Great Lakes. For more information visit: <http://adds.aviationweather.gov/tafs/>

Terms used in Weather Broadcast

Small Craft Advisory: Observed or forecast winds of 18 to 33 knots — small craft advisories may also be issued for hazardous sea conditions or lower wind speeds that may affect small craft operations. Issued up to 12 hours ahead of operations. (There is no legal definition of the term “small craft.”)

Gale Warning: * Observed or forecast winds of 34 to 47 knots.

Storm Warning: * Observed or forecast winds of 48 knots or greater.

Tropical Storm Warnings: * Observed or forecast winds of 34 to 63 knots associated with a tropical storm.

Hurricane Warning: * Observed or forecast winds of 64 knots or higher associated with a hurricane.

Special Marine Warning: Observed or forecast winds of 34 knots or more associated with a squall or thunderstorm and expected to last for 2 hours or less.

You are in Command

Recreation boating accidents are tragic and the great majority of accidents are preventable. The U.S. Coast Guard's most recent boating-related accidents show:

- ◆ 86% of drowning victims were not wearing life jackets.
- ◆ Alcohol was involved in close to 40% of all boating fatalities.
- ◆ About 80% of all boating fatalities occurred on boats where the boater had not completed a boating safety education course.
- ◆ Overall, operator inattention, carelessness/reckless operation, operator inexperience, and excessive speed are the leading contributing factors of all reported accidents.



Before Setting out...

Pay close attention to the weather forecast and listen to detailed marine weather forecasts on NOAA Weather Radio. Take note of small boat cautionary statements such as Small Craft Advisories, or Gale or Storm Warnings in the forecasts. The Advisories and Warnings alert mariners to higher winds and waves either occurring now or forecast to occur up to 24 hours from now. Advisories and Warnings for conditions expected later give mariners time to take action to protect life and property.

Did you know?

- ◆ Lightning strikes on water have killed or injured people more than 30 yards away.
- ◆ The vast majority of lightning injuries and deaths on boats occur on small boats with no cabins.
- ◆ Water related activities such as swimming, boating, and fishing account to 14 % of lightning fatalities.



After setting out...

Don't touch that dial! Stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio. You know the weather...it changes! These changes often occur out of your sight and may be headed your way. Updated warnings and forecasts are aired immediately on NOAA Weather Radio, alerting you to changes that may require action on your part.